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The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 25 August 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you the text of the Statement of the Heads of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation, adopted on 20 August 2000 in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 46, 108 and 166 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

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Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Elmira S. **Ibraimova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Sergey V. **Lavrov**
Ambassador
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(*Signed*) Rashid K. **Alimov**
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Ambassador
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Annex to the letter dated 25 August 2000 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Heads of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, and of the Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation

We, the participants in the Bishkek meeting, having discussed the situation in Central Asia in relation to the terrorist activities of international gangs, express our serious concern at the enlargement in the scale of their armed actions which we consider to be nothing other than acts of naked aggression, terrorism and extremism.

One cause of particular alarm is the fact that the activities of international terrorists are assuming a permanent and ongoing character, thus indicating that their objective is to undermine security and stability in Central Asia and to destabilize the regional and international situation in the long-term. The situation is also evidence that Central Asia is becoming one of the main targets of the hostile activities of international terrorism and extremism.

The participants in the meeting, on the basis of the provisions of the Treaty on Joint Action to Combat Terrorism, Political and Religious Extremism, Transnational Organized Crime and Other Threats to the Stability and Security of the Parties, the Treaty on Collective Security, and bilateral political and legal instruments, and recognizing that the actions of terrorism and banditry in Central Asia and Chechnya, and the military and political confrontation in Afghanistan, are links in one and the same chain, have confirmed that they are united in their legal appraisal of the events that are taking place, namely that international terrorism strikes at the constitutional and democratic foundations of our societies. In that connection we confirm our strong determination to respond appropriately and to put an end to insolent forays by bandits.

We firmly declare that terrorist actions will be crushed by the most decisive measures in accordance with the standards of international law.

The Heads of the States Parties to the Treaty on Joint Action to Combat Terrorism, Political and Religious Extremism, Transnational Organized Crime and Other Threats to the Stability and Security of the Parties of 21 April 2000 have emphasized the necessity of the strict and unwavering compliance of the Parties with all the obligations they have assumed under the Treaty.

We consider it essential, at a session of the Council on Collective Security, to review the evolving situation in Central Asia and to devise urgent measures to resolve it, including a radical reinforcement of the border on the southern flank of Central Asia and the eradication of terrorists in the places where they are deployed. Bearing in mind the tense situation that is evolving on the Tajik-Afghan border, we are convinced of the desirability of taking further measures to reinforce it as the southern boundary of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

We appeal once more to the Security Council, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and all States of the world not only decisively to condemn international terrorism and

extremism but also to move beyond declarations to devise practical coordinated measures designed to eradicate this global threat.

The Parties to the Treaty on Joint Action to Combat Terrorism, Political and Religious Extremism, Transnational Organized Crime and Other Threats to the Stability and Security of the Parties of 21 April 2000 suggested to the leadership of the Russian Federation that it should accede to the Treaty.

Bishkek, 20 August 2000